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POLITICAL SCIENCE

GOLDSMITH, ROBERT. *A League to Enforce Peace*. Pp. xxvi, 331. Price, \$1.50. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1917.

The aim of this book is twofold: to show why various agencies and forces such as pacifism, Christianity, organized labor, diplomacy, business, etc., have failed to prevent wars in the past, to answer the objections that have been made against the proposed League to Enforce Peace and to show that it is the most practicable remedy yet suggested for the prevention of wars.

To the chief objection that the joining of such a league by this country would be contrary to our traditional policy in respect to European alliances, the author replies that the League does not contemplate an alliance in the older and more objectionable sense of the term but merely a policy of coöperation for the preservation of the peace of the world. The United States has attained such a position of influence and leadership that it can no longer pursue a policy of isolation but must become a partner with the other great nations in maintaining the peace. If nations should hesitate to introduce reforms until they become certain that the reforms would be effective the world's progress would be hindered indefinitely. The time has arrived when the world must take measures to prevent if possible the recurrence of such catastrophies as that which we are now witnessing. The League to Enforce Peace has received the approval of many statesmen and leaders of practical thought in all countries. Why not give it a trial? If it fails, no harm will have been done; if it succeeds, the world will have achieved its greatest victory in the fight for civilization.

J. W. G.

SIMS, NEWELL L. *Ultimate Democracy and Its Making*. Pp. 347. Price, \$1.50. Chicago: A. C. McClurg and Company, 1917.

Viewing the achievement of ultimate democracy as a process of persistent conflict between aggregations of forces, the author appraises the contending forces in American society and foresees inevitable victory for Demos. But the democratic triumph requires a collective purpose in government to effect radical changes in existing social institutions and situations. Socialization of wealth initiated by government ownership of public utilities, public regulation of big business, and taxation to equalize wealth, together with a rigid restriction of immigration, will promote the production of economic equality. There remains natural aristocracy, at bottom as bad as any other aristocracy and a barrier to the realization of ultimate democracy. "Inequality of conditions, contrary to the doctrines of some Socialists, comes not primarily and ultimately for many from the present distribution of wages and wealth, but from an inequitable distribution of talent." Eugenic proposals tend to raise the average quality of the stock and to lessen the deviation therefrom. Democracy is advanced by the constantly accumulating experience in democratic government, the diffusion of the democratic idea, the urbanization of society, the spirit of the Scientific-Industrial Age, and the Universal Peace Movement. The Industrial Age by stimulating international class-consciousness sublimates patriotism and aids the warfare of national and world democracy against militarism, a tripartite tyranny of autocracy, aristocracy and

plutocracy, engaged in the exploitation of humanity. Professor Sims has written a thoughtful and spirited survey of significant tendencies and aspirations in American democracy.

L. P. F.

THOMPSON, CARL D. *Municipal Ownership*. Pp. xi, 114. Price, \$1.00. New York: B. W. Huebsch, 1917.

The chief contribution in this work is an adequate presentation of proof that regulation of public utilities is a complete failure and that private ownership of public utilities is the most important cause of corrupt government.

The author seems to err in the importance he attaches to increasing the wages paid to employes of municipally-owned public utilities. Fortunately, however, the advantages are not restricted to labor. He demonstrates that rates charged under municipal ownership succeeding private ownership of public utilities have been reduced materially. He stresses an important point when he says: "Municipal ownership should not be used as a means of making profit in order to reduce taxes." Mr. Thompson errs, too, in claiming that reducing the cost of water, gas, street car fares, and he adds, "even rents," will reduce the cost of living.

He sounds a soothing note to the present owners of public utilities in his statement: "Only those who are operating utilities stand to lose (under municipal ownership) . . . and this will be only a temporary loss that will more than be made up to them we verily believe in the vastly greater gains of the common good." It is impossible to agree with this view, and unnecessary in order to believe in municipal ownership and operation.

The most serious omission is the failure to discuss how municipalities are to secure the funds to acquire their public utilities.

BENJAMIN MARSH.

New York City.

SOCIOLOGY

ABBOTT, GRACE. *The Immigrant and the Community*. Pp. vii, 303. Price, \$1.50. New York: The Century Company, 1917.

The author, long Director of the Immigrants' Protective League in Chicago, has had intimate contact with various immigrant groups and thus writes from personal experience. Many have given us labored evidences of their prejudices, others, of their keen emotional bias. Miss Abbott has been able to put her evidence into readable form, to appeal to our common humanity and yet reveal that she is not blind to the problems involved.

Beginning with the journey to America the actual experiences of the incomers are related. Then we follow them through the mysteries of finding employment, the dangers of exploitation, and the special tribulations of the immigrant girls. Next we are shown the immigrant's relation to our social institutions, courts, industries, schools, politics. Everywhere actual cases are related giving a note of reality to the account. The volume closes with two rather unusual chapters on the Immigrant and American Internationalism, and the Immigrant's Place in a Social Program.